



GOAL AND OUTCOMES

Second DC Youth Permanency Convening May 12, 2009

Goal: Yes We Can..Promote the definition of permanence

To promote the definition of Permanence: A process and a result that includes involvement of the youth as a participant or leader in finding a permanent connection with at least one committed adult who provides a safe, stable, and secure parenting relationship; love; unconditional commitment; lifelong support in the context of reunification, a legal adoption or guardianship, where possible; and the opportunity to maintain contacts with important persons including brothers and sisters.

Outcome:

- Each participant can articulate the elements of the definition and can identify concrete steps he or she can take to support these elements.

Goal: Yes We Can..Provide platform for youth

To provide a community platform for older District youth in foster care to express what permanency means to them and how the elements of permanency will help them make a successful transition into adulthood.

Outcomes:

- Youth will report that they had the opportunity to express what permanency means to them and what they need for a successful transition into adulthood.
- Conference participants will be able to describe the thoughts and opinions expressed by youth at the convening.
- Conference participants will be able to demonstrate the ability to partner with youth to achieve positive permanency outcomes.

Goal: Yes We Can..Strengthen capacity

To strengthen the capacity of CFSA, private providers, foster and adoptive parents, and other professionals (judges, policy makers, therapists, et al.) to achieve positive permanency outcomes for older District youth in care.

Outcomes:

- Conference participants will share the learning from the convening with their colleagues and advocate for additional training and for needed changes in policy, practice and funding.
- Conference participants will be able to describe or explain the importance of permanent connections for youth in care and their role in helping youth to achieve those connections – including ongoing work with youth to address their concerns and hesitations.

Goal: Yes We Can..Expand awareness of permanence beyond child welfare community
To expand awareness of the issue of permanence beyond the child welfare community so as to increase financial and social resources available to support the ability of older youth in care to achieve permanency.

Outcome:

- Community stakeholders will participate in partnerships to provide social resources towards the goal of improved permanency outcomes for older youth.
- The philanthropic community will learn about the needs of older youth connected to the child welfare system and will gain an understanding of the value of investing resources to support improved permanency outcomes for older youth.